Start of The "wimpel" saga /

AR 6723

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AR6723 The Wimpel Saga

A40/2

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The "Wimpel" Saga

Kenneth Fraser (alias Kurt Fleischmann) gave the Wimpel to his parent's congregation soon after his birth.- The writer met him at his mother's boarding house in London before the War. He met him again at a military hospital after he had been flown to the UK from liberated Holland, having been shot in the spine when landing near Arnheim with a RAF glider. He was taken to a PoW hospital by the Germans. His British mates knew his origin from his Bavarian English and the British surgeon had to decide not to operate on him in order to prevent his talking Bavarian German after an anesthetic. He was paralysed from the waist down ever since.

Kenneth's will to live was incredible. With it he coped with enormous hardships and many illnesses. He had a remarkable resiliance and cheerfulness which was infectious. An English nurse married him and looked after him admirably for many years, putting up with all it entailed. She suddenly left him when she could not take it any longer. This caused the hardest blow to him and left him entireley dependent on help from other .

He never had a chance to develop his obvious great potential and died eventually in an ex-servicemen home for paraplegics.

The Wimpel was found after his mother died in a London old-age home. It has been taken to the USA in the hope that one of his relatives may find a suitable home for it.

E.M.B.

11/27/93

Dear Frauke.

Remember, some months ago I called you up to tell you about a Krimpel from Kurt Fleischman that was found in his mother's room ~~at~~ after she had died. Well, here it is with an informational description from a friend of Kurt's from England. I met Irvin Bier through his son who lives in Chicago and that is how the whole story began.

They told me that Kurt was somehow related to the Kissingers and maybe Mrs. Kissinger would like to have the Krimpel. It would be a shame to have it lost again after all these years. so maybe the best place for it

would be the Leo Beck Institute, as you also suggested. I leave this up to you.

It is a beautiful Wimpel and Kurt's name is inscribed and the "Saga of the Wimpel" that Gwin Bier wrote is very impressive, sad and informative.

As far as I know Gwin Bier comes from Frankfurth, lives in England and is very religious, as is his "red headed" son who has 2 darling red headed children.

A belated Happy Thanksgiving and a happy, healthy New Year. Hi to Berry.

Fondly.

Ilse

End of The "wimpel" saga /